

AC 44126 MALLING

RURAL DISTRICT OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

For 1938

on the

Health of the Malling District

By the
Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON.)

and
Sanitary Inspector
(Mr. S. L. BUNDY.)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HAY BOLTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.T.M. and H., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital:

J. VINCENT BATES, M.A., M.D., Ch.B. (Cantab.).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

STEPHEN L. BUNDY, M.S.I.A., Certificated R.S.I.

Additional Inspector:

G. F. J. HOPKINS, A. R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B.

Housing Officer:

JOHN HOLE, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E., Certificated R.S.I.

Matron of the Isolation Hospital:

MISS L. RICHARDS, S.R.N.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report on the health of the district, for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

As in previous years the Report is compiled on the lines set out in Circular 1728 issued by the Ministry of Health as to the contents and arrangement of such reports.

Details of the work carried out in connection with the sanitary circumstances of the area, water supply, and supervision of food supplies, will be found in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, who as in previous years, reports separately on these matters.

The incidence of infectious disease is higher than for the previous year, the total number of cases notified being 137, an increase of 39. It is of interest to note that of the whole total, close on 46 per cent. were notifications received in respect of diphtheria cases. This is accounted for by the fact that an outbreak of diphtheria occurred towards the latter end of the year in the parish of Woudham when a number of cases were notified. Further details will be found in the body of the Report.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	...	...	...	45,650
Alterations to the boundaries during the year	...	...	...	Nil.
Population (Estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	30,640
Number of inhabited houses (end 1938) according to the Rate Books—computed	...	...	...	9,028
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£702

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	428	228	200
Illegitimate	...	26	12	14
Total Live Births		454	240	214
Rate per thousand of the estimated population				14.82
Comparative Rates:—1937		...	...	15.05
	1936	...	...	14.34
	1935	...	...	14.9

STILL BIRTHS—		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	10	9	1
Illegitimate	...	1	1	Nil.
Rate per thousand of total (live and still) births				23.65
Comparative Rates :—	1937	...	...	39.58
	1936	...	...	31.10
	1935	...	...	28.34

DEATHS—

Total	...	...	...	...	336
Rate per thousand of the population			...	10.97	(Crude.)
Adjusted for comparison with the rest of England and Wales, i.e., multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor provided by the Registrar-General of 0.88	...	...	...	9.65	
1937	...	...	...	9.65	
1936	...	...	...	11.52	
1935	...	...	...	11.41	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

(As under Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	Nil.
Other Puerperal diseases	...	...	...	1

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	35.24
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	35.05
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	38.46

Comparative Rates:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births :—	1937	...	30.37
	1936	...	68.8
	1935	...	33.33
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	54
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...		Nil.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The population of the area continues to grow and the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of 30,640 for the mid-year is low in my opinion. All calculations are, however, based on this figure. Considerable progress is still being made in the building of houses by private enterprise. As in previous years this progress is most rapid in the parishes of Ditton, East Malling and the Southern part of Aylesford.

The vital statistics for the district remain satisfactory, the birth rate being 14.82 as compared with 15.1 for England and Wales. The death rate remains exactly the same as last year yielding a rate of 9.65 per 1,000 population whilst the corresponding figure for England and Wales was 11.6.

Throughout the summer months unemployment was more prevalent than in previous years the adverse weather conditions having a bad effect on the fruit, thus less labour was required on the various farms. This is of great importance when one considers that agriculture is an important industry within the area. The paper mills, brickworks, cement works and sand pits were kept busy throughout the year. These industries provide regular employment for a great many people living in the district.

No cases of actual malnutrition have been brought to my notice during the year. The "Milk in Schools" scheme ensures that children who require it get a fresh regular supply of milk each day,

and there is no question that many children must derive great benefit from the scheme.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. No noteworthy alterations have been made in these facilities and as described in previous reports all pathological specimens and samples for analysis are submitted to the County Pathologist or Public Analyst at Sessions House, Maidstone. These arrangements have, as in the past, continued to work very smoothly, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health and staff for their close co-operation and assistance at all times. The services I would add are quite adequate and meet the requirements of the area.

Throughout the year the County Veterinary staff paid routine visits to the various farms within the district, special attention being paid to the eradication of tuberculosis from milch herds. The importance of this work cannot be over emphasised, which together with the bacteriological tests of milk taken from suspected cows goes a long way towards the production of a pure and safe milk supply.

No cases of Undulant fever were brought to my notice during the year.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. A "Morris" ambulance is maintained by the Council for the admission of cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital at East Malling.

For non-infectious and surgical cases the arrangements are as follows :—

For admission to the Sevenoaks Hospital—Ambulance purchased and maintained by the Sevenoaks Urban District Council.

For admission to the West Kent Hospital—The St. John Ambulance Brigade provide and maintain vehicles for this purpose.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(1) *General.* The various village nursing associations continued to do excellent work throughout the year. These associations maintain and support by means of local subscriptions a nurse for their respective villages, and their work is very much appreciated.

(2) *Infectious Diseases.* Cases of measles, whooping cough and ophthalmia neonatorum are visited by health visitors appointed by the Kent County Council. Five health visitors are employed for the whole of the area.

(3) *Midwives.* There are fourteen midwives practising in the area all under supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health. Medical assistance is granted in extreme or necessitous cases.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are ten centres in the district the details of which are as follows:—

PARISH.	SITUATION.	DAYS AND TIMES OF OPENING.
Aylesford	Brassey Rooms	Alternate Wednesdays.
West Malling	Badminton Hall	Thursday Afternoons.
Stansted	Black Horse Inn	1st and 3rd Fridays (Afternoon).
Snodland	New Welfare Centre, Malling Road	Wednesday Afternoons.
Plaxtol	Women's Institute	2nd and 4th Thursdays (Afternoons).
Larkfield (East Malling)	Memorial Social Club Hall	Fridays—2 p.m.
East Peckham	Red Triangle Club	Alternate Tuesday Afternoons.
Burham	The Windmill	Alternate Wednesday Afternoons (2.30 to 4.30 p.m.).
Borough Green	Western Hall	Each Thursday Afternoon.
Wateringbury	Station Road	1st and 3rd Tuesdays.

There are four ante-natal clinics within the area, the details of which are set out below:—

PARISH.	SITUATION.	DAYS AND TIMES OF OPENING.
West Malling	Badminton Hall	1st and 3rd Mondays—2 p.m.
Snodland	M.C.W. Centre, Malling Road	3rd Monday—2 p.m.
Borough Green	Western Hall	2nd Wednesday each month—2 p.m.
Aylesford	Rosalinds Cottage	2nd and 4th Tuesday—2—4 p.m.

A medical officer and nurse attend for the purpose of examining and advising expectant mothers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year:—

Diseases			Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	36	35	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	60	62	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	...	..	29	Nil	22
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	3	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	9	Nil	Nil

SMALLPOX. No cases of smallpox occurred within the district during the year.

SCARLET FEVER. Thirty-six cases of scarlet fever were notified as compared with thirty-three for the previous year. Thirty-five cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital at East Malling, the remaining case being nursed at home. No "return" cases were brought to my notice.

The case rate for the disease is 1.17 per 1,000 population as compared with 2.41 for England and Wales.

No deaths were registered as due to scarlet fever.

DIPHTHERIA. The incidence of this disease was higher than for the previous year, sixty cases being notified. Sixty-two cases were admitted to hospital the increase of admissions over the number of cases notified being accounted for by reason that a number of patients were admitted as the result of positive swabs, and although not suffering from the disease it was thought best to admit them to hospital in the interest of the public health. Three cases of diphtheria were nursed at home.

The disease during the first three-quarters of the year was spread fairly evenly over the whole of the district, but during the last quarter a great number of cases were notified from Woudham, where the disease reached epidemic proportions. Steps taken to prevent the outbreak spreading included medical supervision of all "suspects" and contacts, nose and throat swabs were taken from all the school children at frequent intervals, and investigations were made into the milk supply and sanitary arrangements. With regard to the latter I am of the opinion that certain improvements could be effected in this direction and the matter is receiving the attention of the Sanitary Inspector.

The case rate for the area is 1.95 per 1,000 population as compared with 1.58 for England and Wales.

Two deaths occurred in males yielding a death rate of .06 per 1,000 population as compared with .07 for England and Wales.

ENTERIC FEVER. No cases of this disease were reported during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. Three cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified as compared with two for the previous year. The case rate is 6.45 per 1,000, live and still births.

One death was registered as due to other puerperal diseases giving a death rate of 2.15 per 1,000 total births (live and still).

PNEUMONIA. Twenty-nine notifications were received during the year, as compared with thirty for the previous year.

The case rate is .94 per 1,000 population as compared with 1.10 for England and Wales.

Twenty-two deaths, 12 males and 10 females were registered as due to pneumonia giving a death rate of .71 per 1,000 population, as compared with .42 for 1937.

ERYSIPelas. Nine cases were notified as compared with eight for the previous year. The case rate is .29 per 1,000 population as compared with .40 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS. No necessity for action arose during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade; or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Table set out below gives the details of new cases admitted to the register during the year together with such deaths as occurred:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5—15	...	1	3	1	1	1	...	...
15—25	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
25—35	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	4	...	...	3	...	...	...
45—55	...	2	...	...	4	1	...	...
55—65	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...
65 upwards.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	3	13	5	5	10	4	1	...

Medical practitioners on the whole do not fail to notify cases of tuberculosis and it has not been found necessary to take proceedings in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation within the district.

Seventeen deaths 13 males and 4 females were registered as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system giving a mortality rate of .55 per 1,000 population. One death in a male was registered as due to non-respiratory tuberculosis, yielding a death rate of .03 per 1,000 population.

DISINFECTION. During the year the following premises and bedding were disinfected:—

After scarlet fever	...	...	38
After diphtheria	...	...	62
After tuberculosis	...	...	16
After cancer	...	...	3

As in former years disinfection was carried out by formaldehyde gas, the bedding being treated at the Hospital.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFLUENZA. Influenza was prevalent during the first quarter of the year and 6 deaths, 5 males and 1 female were registered as due to this disease. The mortality rate is .19 per 1,000 population whilst the corresponding figure for England and Wales is .11.

MEASLES AND CHICKEN POX. The incidence of these diseases was high amongst elementary school children, especially during the first half of the year.

One death in a female was registered as due to measles, yielding a mortality rate of .03 per 1,000 population as compared with .03 for England and Wales.

WHOOPING COUGH. This disease was prevalent in the first and last quarter of the year, but no deaths were registered.

CANCER. The facilities available for the treatment of cancer by radium remain unchanged, patients being treated at the West Kent Hospital, Maidstone. No local investigations were carried out in connection with the disease. The number of deaths registered was 54. The figure remains unchanged from the previous year. Of the total deaths 26 were males and 28 females.

The mortality rate is 1.76 per 1,000 population.

FOOD POISONING. No cases of food poisoning were brought to my notice during the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The Table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year:—

*No.	Cause	Number	
		Male	Female
1	Measles	...	1
5	Diphtheria	2	...
6	Influenza	5	1
9	Tuberculosis (of the Respiratory System)	13	4
10	Other Tuberculosis	1	...
11	Syphilis	1	...
13	Cancer	26	28
14	Diabetes	3	5
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	4
16	Heart Disease	48	37
17	Aneurysm	...	1
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	8	15
19	Bronchitis	6	4
20	Pneumonia (all Forms)	12	10
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	...
22	Peptic Ulcer	3	1
24	Appendicitis	1	2
26	Other Liver Diseases	...	3
27	Other Digestive Diseases	3	1
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	8
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	...	1
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	8	4
32	Senility	4	7
33	Suicide	1	1
34	Other Violence	16	3
35	Other defined Diseases	14	15
36	Ill defined	1	...
Totals		180	156

The numbers tabulated under the asterisk denote the number of the specific disease as adopted by the General Register Office in accordance with the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration extended to me at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. HAY BOLTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

25th May, 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting the following details of the sanitary circumstances of the area and of the work carried out by my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1938.

The year has proved an eventful one in many ways. Increased legislation has thrown a vast amount of work on the whole of the Department, and it is difficult to keep up to date at times with all the duties.

The consolidation of the various Public Health Acts by the Public Health Act, 1936, and the coming into operation of the Factories Act, 1937, has marked a great stride forward in public health administration.

SECTION C.

WATER. No new sources of supply have been utilised during the year under review, and the major portion of the area is supplied by the Mid or South Kent Water Company.

679 yards of 3in. main were laid, the details of which are set out in the following table.

Size.	Yards.	Locality and Parish.
3in.	134	Holtwood, Aylesford.
3in.	98	Fernleigh Estate, Ditton.
3in.	12	Sandy Lane, Ryarsh.
3in.	246	Lee Road, Snodland.
3in.	100	Common Lane, Ightham.
3in.	16	Spring Lane, Ightham.
3in.	73	Offham Road, West Malling.
<hr/>		
Total	679	
<hr/>		

The question of the water supply to a large sanatorium and other premises within the district has caused a great deal of concern to the Department during the later half of the year. To clarify

the position it would be as well to give a short résumé of the facts of the case. A report was received from the Medical Superintendent in July, to the effect that a sample of the water submitted for bacteriological examination had proved unsatisfactory. Immediate arrangements were made for the collection by an officer of the Department of two samples of the water, one from the supply on the premises, the other from the source of supply. These also were reported as unsatisfactory. Full investigations were made into the supply, and it was found that the supply was derived from a spring approximately two and a half miles distant. The water was conveyed by a pipe line and pumped into a large storage tank situated in the roof of the building. The tank itself was perfectly clean. It was found that the spring had become considerably silted up with weeds and vegetation. Steps were taken to clean out the whole of the spring including the bed. The surrounding land in the vicinity was also inspected for any possible source of pollution. In spite of these efforts it was not found possible to receive consistently satisfactory reports and the position is that the Company's water was laid on to the premises and is being used for drinking purposes. In the meantime the owners concerned are going into the legal aspect of the case.

SAMPLES, ETC. Eight samples of well water were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. In five cases the water was reported to be of good organic quality and suitable for use for drinking purposes. In the remaining cases the water was reported to be of bad organic quality and unsuitable for drinking purposes. In two of the cases another supply was utilised, whilst in the third case instructions were given to the tenants of the cottages for the water to be boiled before use. In view of the fact that these houses will shortly be the subject of a demolition order, it was deemed unfair to put the owners to the expense of sinking a new well, the mains supply being unavailable.

No cases of infectious disease or other illness attributed to water occurred during the year.

Bacteriological examinations of the water were carried out each month by Mr. Edwards Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., who reported that the water was bacteriologically excellent and well fitted for the public supply.

Bacteriological examinations of the public supply were also carried out by the County Medical Officer of Health the samples being collected by an officer of the Department. The reports confirmed the reports of the Company's Analyst.

In addition chemical examinations of the water were made at the end of each quarter, and proved satisfactory. These results are summarised below:—

	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Free Ammonia	0.0011	0.0019	0.0005
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0007	0.007	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes ...	0.0026	0.003	0.002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours ...	0.0052	0.006	0.004
Total solids	21.95	23.1	21.000
Chlorine	1.66	1.70	1.62
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.17	0.21	0.14
Nitrogen as Nitrites	0.00015	0.0006	Nil
Temporary Hardness } ...	9.76	10.01	9.59
Permanent Hardness } in degrees ...	2.15	2.31	1.95
Total Hardness }	11.90	12.11	11.76

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The position as regards drainage and sewerage is materially the same as the previous year, no extensive alterations having been carried out.

AYLESFORD AND BURHAM DRAINAGE. The scheme for the reconstruction of sewers and the provision of automatic electrically controlled centrifugal pumps, has not yet been commenced. A survey of the area was carried out however and the scheme is in course of preparation. It is hoped to get the pumps installed, and the sewer laid before the present year is out. The pumps at Aylesford have given cause for some anxiety, and it is certain that unless the work is commenced within the near future the situation will be serious indeed. A great deal of trouble has been experienced in the Teapot Lane area caused by the frequent requests for the services of the cesspool emptier. This trouble will of course be obviated when the sewer is laid as proposed.

WEST MALLING. Referring to my Report for 1937, I commented on the fact that steps had been taken to improve the effluent discharged from the purification works, and during the year under review this improvement has been maintained. The effluent is of good quality and no nuisance exists. Care is taken to keep the stream clean and the tanks, filtering media, etc., have received careful and regular attention.

The pumping stations at St. Leonard's Street, London Road and Swan Street have continued to work efficiently, no serious trouble being experienced throughout the year.

EAST MALLING AND DITTON. No alterations or additions have been carried out in connection with the above. Difficulty is still experienced in getting rid of sludge. The arrangements commented on in my previous report have assisted to an appreciable degree in the disposal of the sludge, but it would be of great assistance if some other method could be utilised.

WROTHAM AND BOROUGH GREEN. No noteworthy alterations were carried out during the year, the pumping stations and disposal works remaining in good working order.

SNODLAND. Further trouble was experienced with the sewer in Holborough Road, and on inspection it was found to be badly crushed, and it was necessary to renew 60 feet with cast iron pipes. This particular section has been a constant source of trouble for a long time but no further trouble should be experienced.

One man is employed by the Council and his duties are to keep the sewage purification works and sewers generally in proper and efficient order and the refuse tip properly covered, etc. A number of complaints were received during the year with reference to the drains of private premises being choked, the majority being cleared by the Council's employee.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

My attention has not been drawn to any serious cases of pollution during the year, and so far as I am aware no serious cases exist. Four samples of sewage effluent discharging into streams were submitted for examination and in one case the Analyst reported that the effluent corresponded in composition to a weak sewage and that it was unsuitable to discharge into a stream. It had a foul sewage odour. The premises concerned was a large private house. The facts were communicated to the owners and plans are being prepared for a new sewage system to be installed. Five other complaints were received in respect of pollution of streams and in two instances informal action was taken against private owners, one for permitting refuse to be dumped in a stream and the other for allowing sink waste water to discharge directly into a watercourse. In the three remaining cases no action was taken as it was deemed unnecessary.

I would say that very careful attention is given to this branch of the work in view of the fact of its importance from a public health point of view.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Throughout the district are the following types of sanitary accommodation :—

5,153 premises with water closets discharging into sewers.

3,483 premises with water closets discharging into cesspools.

114 premises with privy accommodation with fixed receptacles.

674 premises with “Pail” closets.

During the year 4 privies were converted to pail closets and eight pail closets to water closets. All these conversions were carried out voluntarily by the owner and in no instance was formal action necessary.

Seventy new houses were connected to the Council’s sewer and 114 to cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL. No changes have been made in the method of disposal of refuse which as in previous years is by controlled tipping. There are two tips in use, one at Ditton and one at Snodland. During the summer months complaints were received in respect of the tip at Ditton being infested with crickets. Steps were taken to try and get rid of these insects by spraying at frequent intervals with a solution of paraffin and creosote. This had the effect of reducing the numbers but unfortunately it had no real lasting effect. Similar trouble is experienced in different parts of the country and it is difficult to see how it can be avoided without going to a great deal of expense. However, no effort was spared in an attempt to get rid of these insects, which are undoubtedly a nuisance.

During July, August and September trouble was also experienced at this tip from flies. The tip was sprayed with “Matafly” at frequent intervals and this kept the numbers down to a great extent.

Care is taken to prevent the tips becoming infested with rats, and the staff are instructed in methods of baiting. For this purpose “Red Squill” biscuits are used. It has been found by these means that rat infestation is practically unknown.

I am pleased to be able to report that the collection service has operated smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. At the beginning of the year the Council took over the scavenging of Snodland, which is the most thickly populated parish within the district. This work had previously been carried out by a private contractor. The whole system of collection was rearranged and a new "Dennis" 14 cubic yard rear loading moving floor vehicle was put into operation for use on this collection. This service is made full use of as can be seen by the amount of refuse collected.

It is interesting to note that the number of tons of refuse handled during the year has increased approximately thirty per cent. as compared with the previous year. In all 5,142 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of, and 1,462 tons of material were used for covering the refuse, making a total of 6,604 tons handled. For comparative purposes the figures for last year were 3,002 tons of refuse and 1,658 tons of material.

In various parishes and in the monthly collection areas particularly, it has been found that the ashbins are used by occupiers of premises for dumping garden refuse such as weeds, etc., this creates a great deal of extra work for the men who have been given instructions in cases where this frequently occurs not to empty the bins.

During the year, dumps which have in the past been used by individual persons for dumping all kinds of refuse have been cleared and put in proper order.

(b) GARAGE FACILITIES. As reported in my Report for 1937, extensions were required in order that all the vehicles could be housed at the Depot in Bell Lane, Ditton. During the year under review these extensions have been added. These are a decided improvement and add to the efficiency of the refuse collection service.

(c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING. The cesspool emptier is made use of to its utmost capacity. During the year 3,556 loads were taken from cesspools and 2,392 pail closets were emptied. It will be necessary as I mentioned in my previous report for the Council to consider the provision of a further cesspool emptier. This, I suggest is a matter of some urgency, for throughout the year the men in charge of the vehicle worked a great number of hours in order to cope with all the work, and requests for the vehicle's service is on the increase. This is clearly shown on comparing figures for previous years, a steady increase each year being shown.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the year 2,968 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department and the following detailed statement shows the nuisances and defects remedied :—

Overcrowding	...	...	10	Dampness remedied in		
Keeping of Animals	...	...	9	Dwellings	...	...
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	37	Roofs and Rain Water Pipes		
Sanitary Accommodation—				repaired	...	...
1. Where insufficient	...	...	11	Floors re-laid where Rough		
2. Where defective	...	...	87	and Faulty	...	...
Drainage—				27		
1. Reconstructed	...	...	23	Walls and Ceilings repaired	71	
2. Repaired	...	...	47	Windows and Ventilation		
3. Cleansed	...	...	931	altered to comply with		
Cesspools—				requirements	...	19
1. Repaired	...	...	15	Baths, Lavatory Basins,		
2. Abolished	...	...	21	Sinks and Sanitary Fit-		
Offensive Accumulations				ments repaired or provided		
removed	...	...	17	where absent	...	13
Refuse receptacles provided						
or renewed	...	...	237	Water Supplies—		
Tents, Vans and Sheds;				(a) New supplies provided	3	
infringements rectified	...	...	6	(b) Precautions for pre-		
Smoke Nuisances abated	...	...	5	venting contamination of existing		
Yard Paving made good	...	...	12	supplies	...	5
				Miscellaneous defects		
				remedied	...	79

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	71	4	Nil
Factories without mechanical power	44	3	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers premises)	7	1	Nil
Totals	122	8	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—				
Insufficient	3	2	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	6	5	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total...	11	8	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Premises	No. in District	Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Slaughter Houses ...	30	307	6	5
Offensive Trades	Nil	...	...	...
Houses Let in Lodgings	Nil	...	...	...
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	...	...	...

THE SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936. Inspections of shops within the district have been undertaken from time to time as and when the opportunity arose. In four cases proper and suitable sanitary conveniences were provided for use by Assistants after the service of informal notices.

In August the Council made an order known as the Sunday Trading Partial Exemption Order, No. 1. made under Section 2 (1) of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act, 1936, which applied to all shops within the area of the Parish of East Peckham. The Order allowed shops to be open on Sundays up to the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon for the serving of customers with the articles noted below during the months of July, August and September in each year.

(a) Bread and flour, confectionery, including rolls and fancy bread.

- (b) Fish (including shell fish).
- (c) Groceries, and other provisions commonly sold in Grocers' shops.

The Order was made because representations had been made to the Council that in view of the exceptional circumstances relating to East Peckham, during the hop-picking season due to the great influx of pickers, unless the shops were allowed to be open for a definite period hardship would be inflicted.

Inspections were carried out of offices under Section 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the purpose of ascertaining the conditions with reference to sanitary conditions. In no case was formal action necessary, and minor defects were remedied immediately attention was drawn to them.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926. At the end of the year there were 83 premises on the register. Routine inspections were carried out making a total of 263 inspections in all. The position on the whole as regards these premises is satisfactory. Producers are beginning to realise the advantages to be gained by setting a definite standard of cleanliness for their sheds and utensils and adhering to it. It has been found unnecessary to serve any formal notices under the Order.

For further details reference should be made to Section E. "Milk Supply."

CAMPING SITES. There were no sites in the area which were used for camping sites during 1938.

Five applications were received in respect of licences for such sites, of these three were refused and two were issued under section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The licences were granted subject to certain conditions and as these were not complied with the licences became inoperative.

The following is a summary of the conditions imposed:—

- (1) There shall not be allowed more than ten moveable dwellings to the acre, and the dwellings shall be placed in line and have a free airspace of at least 25 feet between each structure.
- (2) The site shall be well defined and not be used for any other purpose than that for which the licence is issued.
- (3) The Licensee shall provide and maintain a supply of wholesome water sufficient for domestic purposes at points situated not more than 150 feet from any one dwelling.

(4) The Licensee shall provide in a suitable and readily accessible position one sanitary convenience for each 15 persons. The sanitary conveniences shall be well lighted and properly ventilated, have solid impervious floors capable of ready cleansing with proper falls to drainage, and so constructed as to reduce to a minimum any misuse or abuse. The sanitary conveniences provided for each sex to be completely separate with separate screened approach.

(5) To provide and maintain adequate and suitable washing facilities by the erection of properly constructed ablution huts, suitable and sufficient for both sexes, with suitable and properly constructed drainage to carry away the waste water.

(6) To provide sufficient receptacles for the storage of refuse, and cause to be made arrangements for the regular collection and disposal of any refuse to be carried out not less than twice a week.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Duties in connection with this work have proceeded on similar lines as set out in previous reports. It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the fact that part of the area to a considerable extent is industrial, few complaints have been received during the year as to the emission of excessive smoke. No opportunity is lost of impressing on occupiers of industrial premises the importance of observing and complying with the various legal enactments. I have no hesitation in stating that in my experience the present day tendency on the part of the occupiers, is to do all in their power to assist officials, and not to hinder them as so often was the case in the past.

In no instance was it found necessary to institute legal proceedings. In two cases the attention of the occupiers was called to the fact that complaints had been received, but no further action was necessary.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877-1884, ETC. There is little of importance to report under the above Acts. Three boats were boarded for the purpose of inspection, but it was found that these were registered under the Merchant Shipping Act, and therefore the regulations did not apply.

No cases of infectious disease were reported during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two public swimming baths within the district and during the season these baths are kept under careful observation

and inspected at frequent intervals. In both cases the water is chlorinated before being used. Care is taken to ensure that the water is changed at regular periods, and as frequently as practicable. Two samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the reports were satisfactory. It may be as well to mention that the samples were collected on the Tuesday following August Bank Holiday, after the baths had been used by a great number of bathers. This I think speaks well for the owners of the baths, and shows the care and interest taken to ensure a high standard of purity for the water.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

During the year two Council houses and three private houses were found to be infested with bugs, and in each case disinfection was carried out by means of a homogeneous gas with a sulphur base (Cescones). In two private houses it was considered necessary to supplement this by spraying with an insecticide and "Zaldicide" was used for this purpose.

Work in connection with the methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, has proceeded on similar lines as in previous years.

In the cases of houses subject to a demolition order under the Housing Act, inspections are made with a view to ascertaining if the premises are infested.

All work in connection with disinfection is carried out by officers of the Department, and it is of interest to note that in no case has it come to my knowledge of a house becoming re-infested after disinfection has been carried out.

The measures taken by way of supervision or education of tenants to prevent infestation includes the dissemination of knowledge as to the habits of bed bugs, the importance of cleanliness, the necessity for constant care and attention where infestation is suspected and the need for constant and prolonged action on the part of the tenant.

SCHOOLS.

As in the past, inspections of all the schools within the district have been carried out during the year, special attention being paid to the sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, water supply, etc. I am very pleased to report that the sanitary conditions of the schools are satisfactory on the whole. Minor alterations have been carried out during the year, and it may be noted that the

drains of the National Schools at East Peckham were reconstructed.

WATER SUPPLY. All the schools in the area are supplied with the Company's water.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919. From time to time complaints have been received from owners of private premises to the effect that trouble was being experienced in respect of rats and that there was difficulty in getting rid of them. In all instances the premises were visited and a thorough inspection made, and instructions were given as to the best method of getting rid of them, and in some cases biscuits were supplied by the Council. Advantage is taken of National Rat Week, to impress on the general public the importance of taking steps to guard against any possible infestation.

SECTION D. HOUSING STATISTICS.

During the year ten houses of a semi-detached type have been built by the Council, bringing the total to four hundred and eighty-eight comprising the following:—

Two BEDROOM HOUSES.

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Borough Green	...	2	Mereworth	4
Burham	...	6	West Malling	3
Ightham	...	3				

B. Parlour Type—

East Peckham	...	2
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THREE BEDROOM HOUSES.

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Aylesford	...	48	Offham	24
Borough Green	...	18	Platt	12
Burham	...	2	Plaxtol	...	...	6
Ditton	...	26	Ryarsh	...	...	20
Eccles (Aylesford)	...	10	Snodland	...	...	34
East Malling	...	54	Trottiscliffe	...	...	6
East Peckham	...	32	Wateringbury	...	...	8
Ightham	...	14	Wrotham	...	...	42
Mereworth	...	10				

B. Parlour Type—

Birling	...	12	Leybourne	...	...	4
Borough Green	...	24	West Malling	14
Ditton	...	6	Wrotham	12

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSES.

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Burham	6
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B. Parlour Type—

East Malling	4	Ightham	3
East Peckham	4	Mereworth	4
Borough Green	2	Wrotham	4
West Malling	...	...	3				

The number of new houses erected during 1938 by private enterprise was 188, as compared with 216 for the previous year.

Sixteen properties were demolished during the year without the issue of demolition orders.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	367
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	451
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	89
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	136
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	201

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	197
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 7

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners 7

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners 6

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding:—*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 47

	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	47
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	355
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	57
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. At the end of the year there were 83 premises registered, 64 of which were cowsheds and 19 dairies. Work proceeded on similar lines as in previous years and frequent visits were made to the various farms throughout the year and hints and suggestions were made to the farmers concerned in order to ensure as far as possible the production of clean milk. Within the past few years conditions have improved enormously and farmers generally do not fail to take consistent care in connection with the production of milk and are ready and willing to put into practice any suggestions made by officials which are considered will make an improvement.

THE MILK (Special Designations) ORDER, 1936 AND 1938. At the end of the year, sixteen producers were licensed for the production of "Accredited Milk" and one for "Tuberculin Tested Milk." Sixty-three samples were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination, fourteen of which failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. It should be pointed out that eight of these unsatisfactory samples were obtained from one producer, the remaining six being spread over the other producers. As regards the unsatisfactory producer the County have taken the matter up and unless a vast improvement is shown in the cleanliness of the milk, further action will undoubtedly be taken. With this possible exception it may be said that the percentage of unsatisfactory reports is low, and the position is quite satisfactory.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 30 licensed slaughter houses in the district, and during the year 307 inspections were carried out, the majority being at the time of slaughter.

The table set out below shows the details of the carcases inspected and condemned :—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	683	50	196	1850	2516
Number inspected ...	97	8	28	264	309
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcases condemned	2	...	...	...	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	11	2	...	8	4
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	13.40	25.00	...	3.30	2.26
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases con- demned	4	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	3	1	...	...	5
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.21	12.5	...	...	3.55

The following food was surrendered voluntarily by the owners :—

6 Beasts carcases.	9 Pigs carcases.
6 Bovine lungs.	9 Pigs plucks.
8 Beasts livers.	18 Sheeps plucks.
1 tin lambs liver (foreign).	

A total weight of 2 tons, 13 cwts., 2 lbs.

As in previous years difficulty is experienced in visiting all the slaughter houses at the time of slaughter owing to the fact that the slaughter houses are widely scattered. Every effort is made however to carry out as many inspections as possible in order to ensure that the Regulations are being complied with. The butchers continue to notify times of slaughter regularly, and do not fail to notify the Department of any disease or abnormality detected or suspected.

No prosecutions were taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, during the year.

SHELL-FISH. (Molluscan). There are no shell-fish beds or layings situated within the district. The layings from which oysters are marketed in the district are situated at Whitstable.

(c) **ADULTERATION, ETC.** The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928 is administered by the County Council and during the year 118 samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis by the County Sampling Officers.

I am indebted to the County's Deputy Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures (MR. W. E. ALLEN) for the following information and details as to samples taken :—

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES TAKEN BY INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Article	Number Genuine	Number Unsatisfactory	Total	Remarks
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	1	...	1	
Apricot Conserve ...	1	...	1	
Baking Powder ...	1	...	1	
Butter	7	...	7	
Butter Beans	1	...	1	
Camphorated Oil ...	1	...	1	
Castor Oil	1	...	1	
Chicken and Ham Paste	1	...	1	
Cocoa	2	...	2	
Cod Liver Oil	1	...	1	
Coffee	1	...	1	
Condensed Milk ...	1	...	1	
Cornflour	1	...	1	
Cream	1	...	1	
Gin	1	...	1	
Ground Cinnamon ...	1	...	1	
Jam	3	...	3	
Lard	2	...	2	
Liquid Chocolate ...	1	...	1	
Margarine	6	...	6	
Mustard	1	..	1	
New Milk	71	6	77	
Oatmeal	1	...	1	
Peaflower	1	...	1	
Rice	1	...	1	
Tapioca	1	...	1	
Whisky	1	...	1	
Totals		112	6	118

DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES.

12 New Milk samples were returned as Inferior.

2	„	„	„	contained added water.	Two producers written to by the Clerk of the County Council.
3	„	„	„	deficient in fat.	
1	„	„	„	contained added water and was also deficient in fat.	

HOP PICKING.

Hop picking generally throughout the district commenced on Monday, 5th September and continued until the 24th September. In three cases however an earlier start was made on the 2nd day of September. Notice of intention to use the huts as required by the bye-laws, requires considerable emphasizing. There are still a number of farmers who do not comply with the requirements by giving the requisite notice. The attention of the farmers concerned has been drawn to this matter and it is hoped that in the future proper and sufficient notices will be received.

The farms were not inspected by an Inspector from the Ministry of Health, during the picking.

Work in connection with inspection proceeded on similar lines as in previous years. Inspections were carried out before the actual picking commenced in order that any defects existing could be remedied.

Conditions as regards the farms have improved considerably during the past years, and the improvement it is hoped will be maintained. The majority of the huts have mains supply within a reasonable distance, and it is hoped that in the near future all farms within the district will have such a supply. In the case of premises with a private supply care is taken to ensure that a pure supply is available for the use of the pickers, chemical analyses of the water being made at frequent intervals.

It is of interest to note that no case of infectious disease occurred. A scarlet fever contact was notified to this Department by the Medical Officer of Health of a London Borough, and appropriate action was taken.

As in previous years the organisations which provide medical facilities were in attendance and the importance of their work cannot be over-stressed.

With regard to certain large farms within the district a weekly refuse collection was instituted, and in spite of the fact that this arrangement throws a strain on the normal refuse collection service, in my opinion it is in the interest of the health of the pickers for a regular collection to be maintained, and every effort was made to this end.

I would add that the housing statistics dealing with the work under the Housing Act are supplied by the Housing Officer (MR. J. HOLE) to whom I am indebted.

I would like also to express my sincere thanks and keen appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the courtesy and encouragement I have received at all times throughout the year.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN L. BUNDY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

